

Regulatory Affairs, Attention, Department of the Interior Desk Officer, by fax to 202-395-6566, or by e-mail to oira_docket@omb.eop.gov. Send a copy of your written comments to Mercedes Flores, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW., MS-2607 MIB, Washington, DC 20240, or electronically to Mercedes_Flores@ios.doi.gov. Please mention that your comments concern the Applicant Background Survey, OMB control # 1091-0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instrument, please write to the above address, or call Mercedes Flores, (202) 208-6120. The collection instrument is also available on the Internet at: http://www.doi.gov/diversity/doc/di_1935.pdf.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

DOI is below parity with the Relevant Civilian Labor Force representation for many mission critical occupations. The Department's Strategic Human Capital Management Plan identifies the job skills that will be needed in its current and future workforce. The job skills it will need are dispersed throughout its eight bureaus and include, among others, making visitors welcome to various facilities, such as parks and refuges, processing permits for a wide variety of uses of the public lands, collecting royalties for minerals extracted from the public lands, rounding-up and adopting-out wild horses and burros found in the west, protecting archeological and cultural resources of the public lands, and enforcing criminal laws of the United States. As a result of this broad spectrum of duties and services, the Department touches the lives of most Americans.

The people who deal with the Department bring with them a wide variety of backgrounds, cultures, and experiences. A diverse workforce enables the Department to provide a measure of understanding to its customers by relating to the diverse background of those customers. By including employees of all backgrounds, all DOI employees gain a measure of knowledge, background, experience, and comfort in serving all of the Department's customers.

In order to determine if there are barriers in its recruitment and selection processes, DOI must track the demographic groups that apply for its jobs. There is no other statistically valid method to make these determinations,

and no source of this information other than directly from applicants. The data collected is not provided to selecting officials and plays no part in the merit staffing or the selection processes. The data collected will be used in summary form to determine trends covering the demographic make-up of applicant pools and job selections within a given occupation or organizational group. The records of those applicants not selected are destroyed in accordance with DOI's records management procedures.

II. Data

(1) *Title:* Applicant Background Survey.

OMB Control Number: 1091-0001.

Current Expiration Date: March 31, 2006.

Type of Review: Information Collection Renewal.

Affected Entities: Applicants for DOI jobs.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 535,160.

Frequency of response: Once per job application.

(2) Annual reporting and recordkeeping burden.

Average reporting burden per application: 3 minutes.

Total annual reporting: 26,758 hours.

(3) *Description of the need and use of the information:* This information is required to obtain the source of recruitment, ethnicity, race, and disability data on job applicants to determine if the recruitment is effectively reaching all aspects of relevant labor pools and to determine if there are proportionate acceptance rates at various stages of the recruitment process. Response is optional. The information is used for evaluating recruitment only, and plays no part in the selection of who is hired.

III. Request for Comments

Request for Comments: Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, disclose or provide information to or for a federal

agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; to develop, acquire, install and utilize technology and systems for the purpose of collecting, validating and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; to train personnel and to be able to respond to a collection of information, to search data sources, to complete and review the collection of information; and to transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

Dated: March 16, 2006.

Sharon Eller,

Director, Office of Civil Rights.

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BILLING CODE 4310-RE-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge, Kirwin, KS

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces that a Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is available. This CCP, prepared pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Improvement Act) and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, describes how the Service intends to manage this Refuge for the next 15 years.

DATES: Written comments must be received at the postal or electronic address listed below on or before April 24, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Please provide written comments to Toni Griffin, Planning Team Leader, Division of Refuge Planning, Branch of Comprehensive Conservation Planning, Mountain-Prairie Region, P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225-0486, or electronically to toni_griffin@fws.gov. A copy of the Draft CCP/EA may be obtained by writing to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 134 Union Blvd., Suite 300, Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807; or download from <http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/planning>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Craig Mowry, Refuge Manager, U.S. Fish